



**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

REFERRAL LETTER TO AFFECTED/INTERESTED AGENCIES

Date: April 28, 2022
Project Title: “Branciforte Fire Protection District Reorganization”
Project Number: RO 22-07
APNs: 782 parcels in total
Date Rec'd by LAFCO: April 1, 2022
Submitted by: Board Resolution
Subject Agencies: Branciforte and Scotts Valley Fire Protection Districts

Sphere Adoption/Amendment: Yes
Contractual Service Agreement: No

Executive Officer Message: This application proposes a reorganization involving Branciforte Fire Protection District (“BFPD”) and Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (“SVFPD”). The reorganization involves three key actions: (1) dissolution of BFPD, (2) concurrent annexation of the dissolved BFPD territory into SVFPD, and (3) sphere amendment to include the annexation area.

If you have any comments on this application, please provide your feedback to the LAFCO office no later than **Friday, May 27, 2022**.

Description/Justification: The proposed reorganization was initiated by BFPD through the adoption of a board resolution. The subject area includes 782 parcels totaling approximately 5,800 acres (9 square miles). The purpose of the application is to facilitate the efficient delivery of fire protection to individual and property owners within the affected territory. If approved, the reorganization will preserve the current levels of service, maintain local demand expectations, and continue the existing funding sources.

Location: The subject area involves the unincorporated community known as Branciforte and is located in the central part of Santa Cruz County. Attached is a vicinity map depicting the location of the proposal area. It is important to note that the two fire districts share one sphere boundary since 1994, indicating that they should be merged to provide the best level of service to the Branciforte community.

General Plan/Zoning: The subject area is inhabited and the vast majority of territory within BFPD is designated as R-M (Mountain Residential) and R-R (Rural Residential) under the County’s General Plan. The application does not propose any changes to the existing land use designation.

Other Municipal Services: No other change of organization is required. The proposal area will continue to receive municipal services from existing public agencies, including but not limited to water service from the Scotts Valley Water District and the City of Santa Cruz.

Environmental Review: The project site is subject to an environmental review. Santa Cruz LAFCO will serve as the lead agency for assessing impacts under CEQA. Staff believes the proposal qualifies as a project under CEQA. Therefore, an environmental review is underway.

Tax Negotiations: California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 99(b)(6) requires the adoption of a property tax exchange agreement involving the affected local agency before LAFCO can consider a jurisdictional change. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) acts as the authorizing body for districts regarding property tax adjustments.

Referrals:

Affected Agency: Branciforte and Scotts Valley Fire Protection Districts

Interested Agencies:

Cities – Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley

County Departments – Administrative Office; Elections Office; Supervisorial District 2 (Supervisor Friend) and Supervisorial District 1 (Supervisor Koenig)

County Service Areas – CSA 9; CSA9c; CSA 9d; CSA 11; CSA 12; CSA 38; CSA 48; CSA 53

School Districts – Happy Valley Elementary; Scotts Valley Unified; Soquel Union

Other Local Agencies: Central Fire District; Felton Fire Protection District; Resource Conservation District; Zayante Fire Protection District

Terms and Conditions: The LAFCO resolution will outline several terms and conditions including but not limited to the following: completion of a protest proceedings, payment of the State Board of Equalization fees, and other provisions as required by applicable law or as may be agreed by the affected parties.

Public Hearing: Yes (hearing date: TBD)

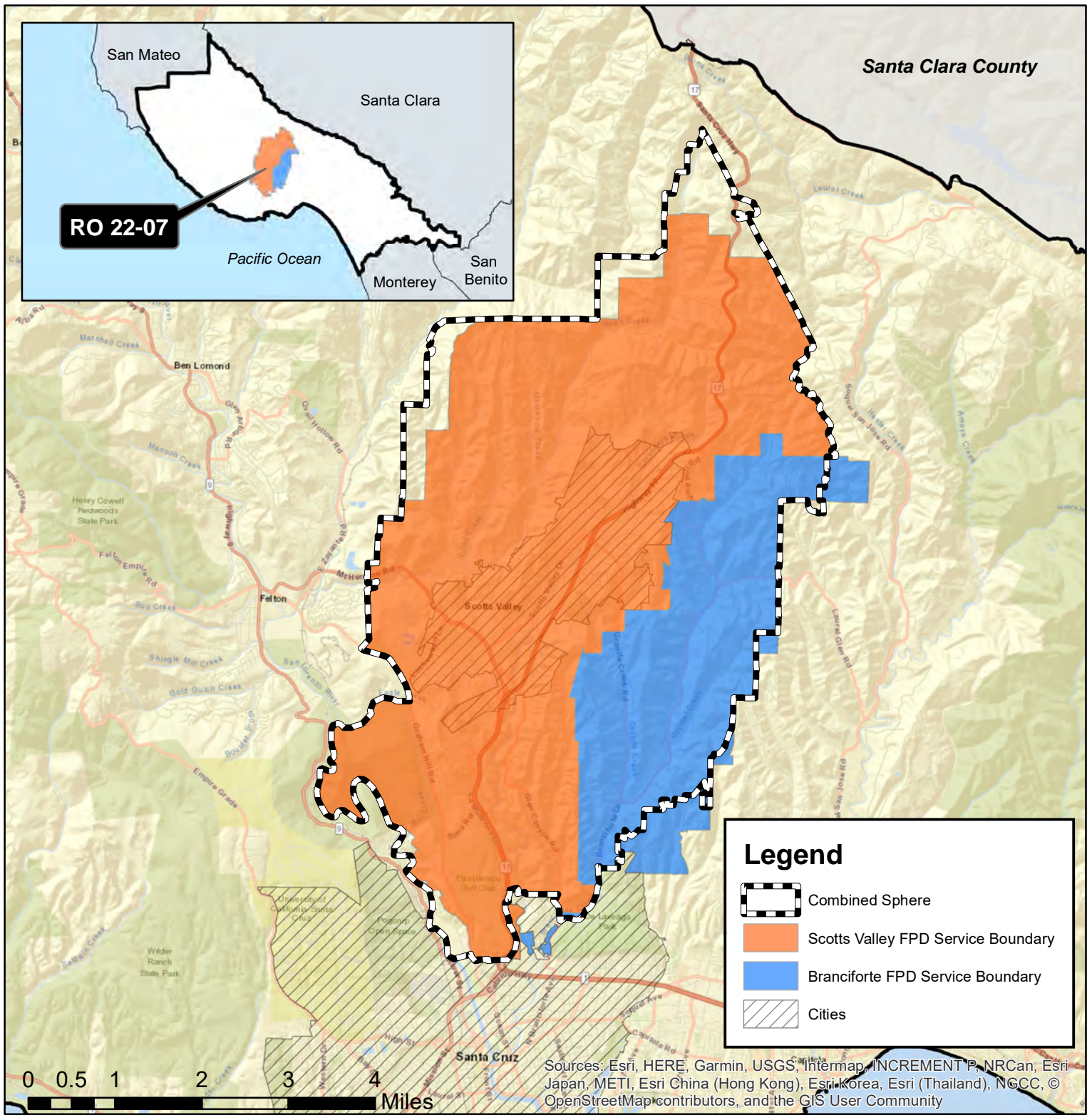
Date File Opened: 4/1/22

Filing Fee Deposit: \$8,000

Date Paid: Pending

Date Status Letter Sent: 4/28/22

Attachment: Vicinity Map



"Branciforte Fire Protection District Reorganization" (LAFCO Project No. RO 22-07)



- The proposed reorganization includes three actions:
- 1) dissolution of the Branciforte FPD
 - 2) concurrent annexation of the dissolved area into SVFPD
 - 3) sphere amendment to include the annexation area

In 1994, Branciforte FPD was added to Scotts Valley FPD's sphere boundary as a precursor to consolidation.